WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1. A polypeptide immunogen consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.
- 2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.
- The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.
 - 4. The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
 - 5. An immunogen consisting of the polypeptide of claim 1 and one or more additional regions moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability.
 - 6. A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the immunogen of any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.
- 8. A nucleic acid comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1-4.
 - 9. The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid is an expression vector.

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10. A recombinant cell comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1-4.

- 11. A method of making a *S. aureus* polypeptide that provides protective immunity comprising the steps of:
 - (a) growing the recombinant cell of claim 10 under conditions wherein said polypeptide is expressed; and
 - (b) purifying said polypeptide.

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- 12. A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of an immunogen comprising a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, and said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.
 - 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said immunogen is the immunogen of any one of claims 1-5.
 - 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said patient is a human.
 - 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said patient is treated prophylactically against *S. aureus* infection.
- 16. A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide made by the method of claim 11.